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Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 SIG-03
CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-01 INR-10
NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 EA-10 L-03 /074 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/FA:DJYELLMAN:OW
APPROVED BY OES/OFA/FA:JSTORER
EUR/RPE: W SALISBURY
NMFS/NOAA: B ROTHSCHILD
----------117440 210359Z /64
P R 210137Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC, COPENHAGEN AND MEXICO FOR FISHATTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, FG, EFIS

SUBJECT:SHRIMPING OFF FRENCH GUIANA

REF: BRUSSELS 7530

1. DEPARTMENT PASSED CONTENTS REFTEL TO INDUSTRY MEMBERS, WHO REACTED WITH SURPRISE TO EC COMPLAINT THAT THEIR CATCH
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REPORTING HAD BEEN INADEQUATE. MR. JACK SAHLMAN, OWNER OF SAHLMAN SEAFOODS, TAMPA, FLA., AND OPERATOR OF OVER 40 OF THE U.S. VESSELS BASED AT CAYENNE, CHECKED WITH CAYENNE PLANT MANAGER AND INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT ALL U.S. VESSELS BASED AND UNLOADING AT CAYENNE PLANT SUBMIT COMPLETE WEEKLY CATCH REPORTS AS INSTRUCTED BY LOCAL REP OF FRENCH MINISTRY OF MARINE AFFAIRS. LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE EXPRESSED NO

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DISSATISFACTION WITH THESE REPORTS OR THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY ARE SUBMITTED. REPORTS ARE COMPILED AND SUBMITTED AT CAYENNE PLANT, WHERE ALL VESSELS UNLOAD. (NO U.S. VESSELS ARE CURRENTLY FISHING UNDER 'FISHING PLAN' LICENSES AL-THOUGH WE UNDERSTAND APPROXIMATELY 23 KOREAN AND 20 JAPAN-ESE VESSELS NOT BASED IN CAYENNE AND NOT UNLOADING THERE STILL ARE FISHING IN FRENCH GUIANA ZONE.)

2. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS HAVE AGAIN EXAMINED REQUIREMENTS ATTACHED TO FISHING LICENSES, AND AGREE WITH INDUSTRY THAT WEEKLY REPORTING OF LANDINGS WOULD APPEAR TO FULFILL RE-QUIREMENTS. REQUIREMENTS AS STATED ARE NOT REALLY KEYED TO FRENCH GUIANA SHRIMP FISHERY (DEALING, AS THEY DO, WITH ICES AND ICNAF SUBDIVISIONS AND AREAS) AND CHECK-IN/CHECK-OUT REQUIREMENTS DO NOT APPLY TO U.S. VESSELS BASED CAYENNE WHICH ARE NOW FISHING EXCLUSIVELY WITHIN THE FRENCH GUIANA ZONE.

3. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS MISSION QUERY EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS RE EXACTLY WHAT REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT BEING MET, AND ORIGIN OF COMPLAINTS OF INADEQUATE REPORTING. INDUS-TRY IS OF COURSE WILLING TO COMPLY WITH EC REQUIREMENTS, BUT IS CONFUSED IN VIEW OF APPARENT SATISFACTION OF CAYENNE AUTHORITIES AND UNHAPPINESS OF EC. IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF MISUNDERSTANDINGS OR LACK OF COMMUNICATION WERE TO PREJUDICE U.S. PARTICIPATION IN LICENSES AFTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

MAY 31.

4. FYI: A VISIT TO BRUSSELS IS CURRENTLY BEING PLANNED BY MR. JACK SAHLMAN, MR. PAUL MAGNAN, LOCAL MANAGING PARTNER IN CAYENNE PLANT, MR. BOB D'ALESSIO REPRESENTING CASTLE AND COOKE, AND A DEPARTMENT FISHERIES OFFICER TO DISCUSS LICENSES FOR BALANCE OF 1978 AND RELATED TOPICS WITH EC COMMISSION FISHERY OFFICIALS. TENTATIVE DATES FOR DISCUSSIONS IN BRUSSELS WOULD BE MAY 8-9, BUT PLANS ARE NOT YET FINALIZED, AND DATES ARE STILL FLEXIBLE. MISSION WILL BE INFORMED BY IMMEDIATE CABLE WHEN PROPOSED TRAVEL DATES DETERMINED. MEANWHILE, REQUEST MISSION RAISE SUBJECT OF PROPOSED VISIT WITH COMMISSION OFFICIALS TO DETERMINE THEIR RECEPTIVITY, AND, IF FAVORABLE, WHETHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR MAY 8-9 MEETINGS. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHING INDUSTRY, REPORTS, SHELLFISH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE101677
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DJYELLMAN:OW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780170-0479
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780430/aaaaayyt.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1a0aefa9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRUSSELS 7530
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2889632
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHRIMPING OFF FRENCH GUIANA
TAGS: EFIS, FG, US, EEC
To: BRUSSELS USEEC
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1a0aefa9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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